Gc
929.2
W644wic
1919095

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01434 0019

Wilcox Family History.

Being Some Account of the First Five Generations in Direct Line from

WILLIAM WILCOCKSON
OF STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT,

TO

JOSIAH WILCOX
OF BRECKSVILLE, OHIO.

Compiled by OWEN N. WILCOX

CLEVELAND, OHIO,
August, 1911.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

http://www.archive.org/details/wilcoxfamilyhist00wilc

1919095

William Wilcockson,

Of Stratford, Connecticut.

FIRST GENERATION.

William Wilcockson, the ancestor of the Wilcoxsons of Stratford, and the Wilcox family of Madison and Killingworth, Connecticut, was the first American ancestor and great, great, grandfather of Josiah Wilcox, the central figure of this booklet. The earliest official record in which his name appears is found in MSS., preserved in The State Paper Department of His Majesty's Record Office, London, England. Certain of these manuscripts, and more particularly those which relate to the original English emigrations to America, have been gathered into book form by one John Camden Hotten. This work is familiarly known to students of genealogical matters as *Hotten's Original Lists*. The statement on the title page explains the substance of the volume's contents, and its quaint comprehensiveness makes the text of it worth repeating. It runs as follows:

HOTTEN'S ORIGINAL LISTS.
The Original Lists
of
Persons of Quality
Emigrants; Religious Exiles; Political Rebels; Serving Men Sold for a Term of Years; Apprentices; Children Stolen; Maidens Pressed;
And Others Who Went From
Great Britain
To The
American Plantations
1600 — 1700
With Their Ages,
The Localities Where They Formerly Lived In The Northern Country, The Names of the Ships in Which They Embarked, And Other Interesting Particulars.

The record of William Wilcockson's emigration to America appears in this volume, and the entry is in the following quaint language:

20 Aprilis 1635

"Theis under written names are to be transported to New England Imbarqued in the *Planter* Nico: Trariee Mr bound thither the pties have brought Certificate from the Minister of St St (sic) Albons in Hertfordshiere Attestacon from the Justices of peace according to the Lord's order."

---

		yeres
William Wilcockson	Lynnen Wever	34
Margaret Wilcockson		24
Jo: Willcockson		2

* * *

(The names of the other members of the ship's company are here omitted.

The certificate from the minister and the attestations from the justices imported that they were communicants and had taken the oath of loyalty. This was a prerequisite to the privilege of emigration.)

* * *

The above record shows us that William Wilcockson was born in 1601. After his arrival in the wilderness of the New World he settled at Concord, Massachusetts, and although the records are silent upon his residence there, he must have taken considerable interest in its growing life and attained to some prominence dur-

ing his short stay in the town, for in his will, which was dated May, 1651, he left £40 to the Church in Concord.

In the year 1639 he became one of the founders of the town of Stratford, Connecticut, which was the seventh plantation or settlement in the present territory of the State. The first three were Windsor, Hartford, and Wethersfield, commenced in 1635 and 1636. The next was the town of Saybrook, founded by John Winthrop, the younger, in 1635, and the other two preceding Stratford were New Haven, settled in April, 1638, and Milford, begun the following spring.

The first settlement at Stratford, which is located on the Housatonic River in Fairfield County, one and a half miles from Long Island Sound, fourteen from New Haven and fifty-eight from New York, was made in the spring of 1639. The Indian name of the place was Cupheag. The growth of the town was gradual and began with a few families. It was first recognized as an established plantation in 1639, although some traditions relate that the family of one William Judson, if not others, was established there in 1638. William Wilcockson was one of the first arrivals, however, and in a list of the seventeen families that were resident there in 1639,

---

The writer spent considerable time and effort in an endeavor to secure a transcript of the Will of William Willcoxson, only to find reference to a fact which will doubtless make it forever impossible to secure a copy, namely that the second volume of the records of the Particular Court or Court of Magistrates (Conn. Colonial Records), comprising a period of about thirteen years (from January, 1650, to June, 1663), and including the Probate Records, long since disappeared from the office of the Secretary of State of Conn., and is supposed to be irrecoverably lost. This loss covers the years of William Willcoxson's will-making and death.

his name appears third in order of settlement. At this time his family numbered, besides himself and his wife Margaret, three young children. In most of the Stratford records the spelling of his name is given as *Willcoxson* instead of *Wilcockson*.

One account of the early days of Stratford states that the first principal gentlemen in the town and Church were one Mr. Fairchild, who came directly from England, John and William Curtiss, and Joseph Hawley from Roxbury, and William Judson and *William Willcoxson* from Concord. This William Judson is the reputed first settler of the village, and as he came from Concord, where William Willcoxson first settled, the assumption is that they came together.

The following account from Orcutt's History of Stratford gives a fair conception of William Wilcoxson's standing in the town:

> "William Willcoxson came from England in 1635, in the ship *Planter,* in company with Richard Harvey and William Beardsley, who settled in Stratford. He was made freeman (equivalent of one having the right of suffrage) in Massachusetts in 1636, and hence was one of the first proprietors and a prominent man in the township. In his will, dated May, 1651, he gave 40 Pounds to the Church in Concord. He left a widow and five sons, through whom the descendants of his name are widely scattered in the nation. The name has been contracted in some localities to that of Wilcox."

According to an early map of Stratford showing the names of the village streets and the numbers and locations of the residents' lots, it appears that William Willcoxson lived on lot No. 70 on Elm Street. A diagram of the original church is also in existence which shows the

box pews of the respective members of the congregation. William's was on the left side near the front.

One of the features of the town in the early days of Stratford was the "Common Field." This was land for cultivation, owned by several or all the proprietors. A fence was made around the whole instead of each man making a fence around his own parcel. This arrangement was to save time and work. There were two of these common fields in Stratford. The fence about the first common field was a little over 353 rods in length and enclosed nearly 50 acres. William Willcoxson's share in it as No. 13 was 12 rods 3 ft. and no inches.

In 1699 a record of the proprietors of the common and undivided lands in the township was prepared. The list did not indicate the number of acres of land owned by each or his degree of wealth, but merely gave his proportion in the common lands and was called:

> "A record of each and every particular proprietor's Rights in future commonage in Stratford adjusted by the Committee chosen and appointed for that work and by them ordered to be Recorded for the future benefit and peace of the town, January 13, 1699, by which Rule all future Divisions are to be laid out."

The shares of John and Deacon Timothy, William's two oldest children, were 39¾ acres and 29½ acres respectively. The records of Stratford give Timothy as the first of William's children, but this is obviously an error, as the roster of the Ship *Planter* discloses that William had but one child, John, when he came to America in 1635. John, therefore, was born in England and probably in 1633 or 1634, as the *Planter* roster gives his age as two years. William's next two children, Timothy and Joseph, the latter being the father of the Wilcoxes

of Killingworth, Ct., were probably born in Concord, Mass., for the Stratford records state that when William settled in the latter place in 1639, he came with his wife and three young children. In that year the town contained but seventeen families, and William's name is the third in the list in the order of settlement.

Timothy, who received the appellation of Deacon from being a deacon in the Congregational church of Stratford, was *probably* the second of William's children, but whether he was really older than Joseph is uncertain.

In the records of the General and Particular Courts from April, 1636, to December, 1649, we have evidence that William Wilcoxson took part in the public affairs of his community, in a modest degree at least, serving as jury-man on different occasions and in the capacity of Deputy in the Court or governing body. He had been made a freeman in 1636.

On the 21st day of May, 1647, he sat in a jury to which were tried eleven separate cases. The record of the day's proceedings is interesting and will bear reproduction by reason of its quaint spelling and diction, and on account of the character of the coin in terms of which the jury sometimes made its findings and awarded its damages, that is, bushels of "Indean" (corn), instead of dollars or pounds. We can well imagine that William must have felt he had transacted a good day's business when he had assisted in passing upon the following:

May the 21st, 1647.

"THE JURY: Mr. Talcoate, Gre: Wilterton, Tho: Osmor, Sa: Smith, *Will: Wilcoxson*, Robert Howard, Dan: Tyterton, Walter Fyler, John Croc, Ed: Harny, Tho: Judde, John Demon.

"In the ac. of John Steele pl. ag't Tho: Demon, the said Tho: Demon is to pay six bush: of Indean.

In the ac. of Blysse pl. ag't Lyman & Arnold, the defen'ts are to pay 20 s. & costs of Court.

Henry Densloe is to attend agayne the next Court, and Wilcoxe to pay him 5s for not pr'secuting this Court.

In the ac. of Mr. Whiting pl. ag't Sa: Smith def't, the Jury find for the pl. viijl damages, and cost of Court.

In the ac. of Blachfield pl. ag't Spenser, the Jury find for the pl. 50 bush: of Indean, & costs of Court.

In the ac. of Spenser pl. ag't Blachfield def't, the Jury find for the Pl. 31s. 3d. damages, & costs of Court.

In the ac. of slaunder, of Mr. Whiting pl. ag't Tho: Ford def't, the Jury find for the pl. 40s. & costs of Court.

In the ac. of Will Fishe pl. ag't Aron Cooke, the Jury find for the pl. fiue pownd damages & Costs of Court.

In the ac. of Tho: Ford pl. ag't Oldige & Hull, the Jury find for the def'ts, costs of Court.

Henry Gree acknowledgeth himselfe bownd to the Court, in Recognizance of xl. & Tho. Hassard in 20, that Tho: Hassard keep good behaviour untill the General Court in Septeber next, and appeare at the p'rticular Court the day before.

In the ac. of Write pl. against Norton, the pl. is to have the swyne and pay the chardges for the keeping."

Three days after the rendering of the foregoing verdicts, that is on May the 24th, 1647, William Wilcoxson again sat upon the jury but upon this second occasion the jurymen had but one case to consider. With a few exceptions the jurymen were the same who had sat with William on the preceding day, but it is interesting to note that the new talesmen were among the litigants whose cases had been heard upon the first of the two mentioned days. In the present day and generation such a condition of affairs would almost certainly result in the new candidates being challenged as unfit to serve on account of knowledge and the natural bias which they would be presumed to have, but in the early Colonial period such an irregularity passed unnoticed and was probably the result of the comparatively small number of men in the then primitive neighborhood.

* * *

During the same month in which William Wilcoxson performed the above described jury duty he was also a deputy or representative to the General Court at Hartford from his district. Seventeen other men sat with him as deputies, and this body acted with a Governor, a Deputy-Governor, and nine Magistrates, one of whom was Secretary and another Treasurer. On the 20th of May, 1647, this General Court met for the transaction of business and again on the 25th. The results of some of its deliberations will be noted hereafter, with all their original odd spelling and quaint, solemn style.

A clear idea of the judicial character and constitution of this body of which William Wilcoxson was a member, in 1647, can be gleaned from a verbatim reproduction of one of its orders as follows:

"Whereas, by an Order of the 14th of January, 1638, it was Ordered, that euery Generall Court,

excepte such as through neglecte of the Go'r and the greatest p'rte of Magistrats the Free men theselues doe call, shall consiste of the Go'r or some on chosen to moderate the Courte, and 4 other Magistrats at lest, w'th the maior p'rte of the deputyes of the seuerall Townes, legally chosen, w'ch hath bine conceaued, that by the example thereof no p'rticuler Court might be keepte excepte the Go'r or Dep: Go'r and 4 Magistrats were pr'sent, w'ch this day coming into, consideration, this Court seeing the many inconueniences thereof to be so restreyned, and considering in case it may so fall out that by reson of the absence of the Go'r or Deputy and 4 Magist: no p'rticuler Court may be extant to administer justice according to the law of God and humane pollicy, w'ch is now conceaued to to contrary to the trewe meaning of the said former Order,

It is therefore now declared and so Ordered, sentenced and decreed, that the Gou'r or Dep: Go'r w'th 2 Magistrats shall haue power to keepe a p'rticuler Court, according to the lawes established, & in case the Gou'r or Dep: Go'r be absent, or some waye or other incapable ether to sit or to be pr'sent, if three Magistrats meete, and choose on of theselues to be a moderator, they may keep a p'rticuler Court, w'ch to all intents & purposes shalbe deemed as legall, as though the Go'r or Deputy did sitte in Courte, and all other Orders that that haue bine heretofore in that case shalbe reduced to this Order."

As an indication of the dangers with which the settlers of that period were surrounded, the following order regarding the maintenance of a guard, is interesting:

"It is Ordered, that there shalbe a gard of 20 men, euery Sabbath and Lecture day, compleate in their arms, in ech seuerall Towne vppon the Riuer,

and atte Seabrooke and Farmington 8 apeece, ech towne of the sea coast ten, and as the nuber of men increase in the Townes, the gaurd is to encrease."

Also the following orders respecting the wolves and the Indians:

"It is Ordered, that the three Townes on the Riuer & Tunxis shall pay ten shillings to whosoeuer shall kill any Woolfe w'thin any of their libertyes, & so to pay for euery woolfe that shalbe kylled w'thin the term of one yeare after the date hereof.

For as much as diuers inconueniences fall out by letting land to the Indeans, whereby they mix theselues in their labours w'th the Inglishe, and thereby the manners of many young men are lyable to be corrupted, It is Ordered, that noe Inhabitant w'thin this Jurisdiction shall contracte w'th or lette any land to any Indean after the publisheing this Order, nether shall any Indean possesse any land held of the Inglishe after the last of October next, p'rvided not w'thstanding that such natyves as haue caried theseues peasebly, and w'ch will subiecte theselues to be ordered by the Inglishe, shall haue p'ruission for planting vppon reasonable terms sette forth for them."

It is also interesting to note, and would doubtless gladden the hearts of the members of the Anti-Cigaret League and the Good Templars to discover that our early New England fathers, as well as our modern assemblies, legislated concerning the "weed and the vine," and their baneful effects. Witness the following orders from the general Court in its meeting held May the 25th, 1647, in which William Wilcoxson took part:

"For as much as it is obseaued that many abuses are comitted by frequent takeing Tobacco, It is Ordered, that noe p'rson vnder the age of 20

years, nor any other that hath not allreddy accustomed himselfe to the vse thereof, shall take any Tobacco vntil he haue brought a Certificate, vnder the hand of some who are approued for knowledg & skill in phisicke, that it is vsefull for him, and also that he hath receaued a lycence fro' the Court for the same. And for the regulateing those who ether by their former takeing y't haue to their own. app'hensions made yt necessary to the, or vppon due aduice, are p'rsuaded to the vse thereof, It is Ordered, that no man w'ithin the Collony, after the publicatio' hereof, shall take any tobacco publickely in the street, nor shall take yt in the fyelds or woods, vnlesse when they be on their trauill or joyrny at lest 10 myles, or at the ordinary tyme of repast comonly called dynner, or if it be not then taken, yet not aboue once in the day at most, & then not in company w'th any other. Nor shall any H inhabiting in any of the Townes w'thin this Jurisdiction, take any Tobacco in any howse in the same Towne wher he liueth, w'th and in the company of any more then one who vseth and drinketh the same weed, w'th him at that tyme; vnder the penalty of six pence for ech offence against this Order, in any of the p'rticulers thereof, to be payd w'thout gainesaying, vppon conuictio' by the testimony of one witnesse that is w'thout iust exception, before any one Magistrate; and the Constables in the severall Townes are required to make pr'sentment to ech pr'ticuler court of such as they doe vnderstand and can evict to be transgressors of the Order."

It is difficult to imagine a modern smoker conforming to such ordinances as the above, and one cannot conceive that they were ever very scrupulously obeyed, but every liberal-minded individual who, while he does not smoke himself, does not object to others doing so, if they respect his rights, would be glad, I am sure, if his modern smoking friends would consent to abide by

a code of rules as stringent as these archaic but well-considered statutes.

The friends of "local option" and the members of the Anti-Saloon League may consider that they are pioneers in the difficult field of liquor legislation, but they can find hoary precedents in the colonial enactments. William Wilcoxson assisted in passing the following on the 25th of May, 1647:

> "And for the pre'uenting that great abuse w'ch is creepeing in by excesse in Wyne and strong waters, It is Ordered, that noe inhabitant in any Towne of this Jurisdiction shall continue in any comon victualing howse in the same Towne where he lieuth aboue halfe an hower att a tyme in drinking wyne, bear or hotte waters, nether shall any who draweth & selleth wyne suffer any to drynke any more wyne att on tyme then after the pr'portion of three to a pynt of sacke. And it is further Ordered, that noe such wyne drawer deliuer any wyne, or suffer any to be delinered out of his howse to any who com for yt, vnlesse they bring a noate vnder the hand of some on M'r of some family and alowed inhabitant of that Towne, nether shall any such Ordinary keep, sell or drawe any hotte waters to any but in case of necessity, and in such moderation for quantity as they may have good grownds to conceaue yt may not be abused; and shalbe reddy to giue an accoumpte of their doeings herein when they are cauled thereto, vnder censure of the Court, in case of delinquency."

The foregoing constitutes all of the available information concerning William Wilcoxson. It is a source of very great regret to the compiler to be obliged to confess, even to himself, that there is nothing more, but he feels confident in asserting that he has exhausted the subject. It is a source of no little satisfaction to him

to know this much concerning the first of the family in America, and if the readers of this small pamphlet can derive even a fraction of the pleasure the compiler has experienced in gathering the data, he will consider that his efforts have not been misspent.

William Wilcoxson died in 1652 at Stratford, Connecticut, which he had helped to found, and his widow, Margaret, who married William Hayden of Windsor, Connecticut, died in 1655.

The compiler begs to refer his readers to the charts of family history, scattered through this booklet, for more precise and graphically displayed information concerning the different generations, one of which is bound in with this initial section and relates to William's own immediate family.

Johannah, born July 8, 1667; married Joseph, son of Thomas Fairchild, Jr.
Phebe, born Aug. 13, 1668-9; married Thomas Beach of Wallingford.
Sarah, born Dec. 26, 1671; married Robt. McEwen June, 1695.
Elizabeth, born Nov. 1, 1673; married Joseph Hawley of Farmington in 1697.
Ruth, born Aug. 31, 1677; married Robt. Walker in 1695.
Rebecca, born July 13, 1680; married 1st ..... Rice; 2nd Elisoph Preston.
Hannah, born Sept. 18, 1685; m. Thomas Gridley of Farmington

John, born March, 1657.
William, born ....., 1659.
Patience, born Feb. 6, 1663; married Ebenezer Blakeman.
Hannah, born Feb. 14, 1664-5; married Joseph Booth.
Elizabeth, born July .., 1666; married Barnabas Beers.
Mary, born April .., 1668.

Joseph, born Oct. 29, 1659.
Thomas, born Nov. 13, 1661.
Samuel, born 1663.
Hannah, born Jan. 19, 1665; m. Peter Farnham, Sept. 8, 1686.
Nathaniel, born Aug. 29, 1668.
William, born Jan 9, 1671.
Margaret, born 1673.
John, born 1675.

Samuel, born 1666.
William, married Elizabeth Willson.
Joseph.

Mary, born 1676.
Lydia, born 1678, died soon.
Obadiah, born 1679.
Ebenezer, born 1682.
Ephraim, born .....
Mindwell, born .....
Timothy, born 1690.
Silence, born .....
John, born 1692.
Joseph, born 1694.
Janna, born .....
Jemima, born 1699.
Thankful, born 1701.

FIRST GENERATION.

WILLIAM WILCOCKSON,

and

MARGARET, HIS WIFE,

Came to America in 1635. Settled in Concord, Mass. Became one of the founders of Stratford, Conn. Mass. Freeman in 1638. He died at Stratford in 1652. His widow married William Hyder of Windsor. She died in 1655.

NOTE.—Stratford Records give Timothy as the eldest child of William Wilcockson, but that is wrong, as is indicated by the roster of the ship "Planter." This shows that William had but one child when he came to America, i. e., John.

TIMOTHY (Dea.), born about 1630+; married Johanna daughter of John Birdseye, Senr., Dec. 28, 1664; she died Aug. ..., 1713; Freeman in 1669; moved to Stratford as early as 1640. He died January 13, 1713-14.

- Johannah, born July 8, 1667; married Joseph, son of Thomas Fairchild, Jr.
- Phebe, born Aug. 13, 1668-9; married Thomas Beach of Wallingford.
- Sarah, born Dec. 26, 1671; married Robt. McEwen June, 1695.
- Elizabeth, born Nov. 1, 1673; married Joseph Hawley of Farmington in 1697.
- Ruth, born Aug. 31, 1677; married Robt. Walker in 1695.
- Rebecca, born July 13, 1680; married 1st ..... Rice; 2nd Eliasoph Preston.
- Hannah, born Sept. 18, 1685; m. Thomas Gridley of Farmington.

JOHN, born about 1634++; married 1st daughter of Daniel Titerton; 2nd Elizabeth, widow of John Welles, March 19, 1662-3.

- John, born March, 1657.
- William, born ....., 1659.
- Patience, born Feb. 6, 1663; married Ebenezer Blakeman.
- Hannah, born Feb. 14, 1664-5; married Joseph Booth.
- Elizabeth, born July .., 1666; married Barnabas Beers.
- Mary, born April .., 1668.

JOSEPH, Father of the Killingworth Wilcoxes, born about 1638; married Anna ..... 1659; he died before 1684.

- Joseph, born Oct. 29, 1659.
- Thomas, born Nov. 13, 1661.
- Samuel, born 1663.
- Hannah, born Jan. 19, 1665; m. Peter Farnham, Sept. 8, 1686.
- Nathaniel, born Aug. 29, 1668.
- William, born Jan 9, 1671.
- Margaret, born 1673.
- John, born 1675.

SAMUEL, of Simsbury, born about 1640; died March 12, 1713; resided at Meadow Plain, Simsbury being one of the early settlers; deputy for Simsbury to General Court at Hartford from 1694 to 1712.

- Samuel, born 1666.
- William, married Elizabeth Willson.
- Joseph.

OBADIAH, of Guilford, born about 1642 at Stratford; he was married three times: Mary, died Aug. 3, 1670; Lydia; Silence. Presented for freeman in 1669. Obadiah settled in Guilford, Conn., whither he removed from Stratford in 1676. Children probably all born in Guilford. Obadiah died 1713.

- Mary, born 1676.
- Lydia, born 1678, died soon.
- Obadiah, born 1679.
- Ebenezer, born 1682.
- Ephraim, born .....
- Mindwell, born .....
- Timothy, born 1690.
- Silence, born .....
- John, born 1692.
- Joseph, born 1694.
- Janna, born .....
- Jemima, born 1699.
- Thankful, born 1701.

ELIZABETH, born about 1644; married Henry Stiles of Windsor April 16, 1663.

HANNAH, born about 1646; married Daniel Hayden, probably of Windsor, March 17, 1665.

SARAH, born about 1648; married John Meige, Jr., of Guilford, in 1665.

PHEBE, born about 1650; married John Birdseye, of Stratford, Dec. 11, 1669.

JOSEPH WILLCOXSON

Of Killingworth, Connecticut

1638—1683

SECOND GENERATION.

The town of Killingworth, Connecticut, the birthplace of Josiah Wilcox, was founded in 1663. The Indian name of the tract which now constitutes the town of Killingworth was Hammonnasset. This was also the name of the river which skirts its western border. In October of 1663, the Colonial legislature resolved that there should be a town at this place and during the same month twelve settlers from adjacent towns moved thither, and located. In the course of the next two or three years these were joined by sixteen others, making a total of twenty-eight. The town was divided into thirty sections or rights, however, the two extra ones being reserved for the first minister who should settle there and the second for the support of the ministry forever. The name of *Joseph Willcox,* or *Willcoxson,* from Hartford, appears in the list of the first twelve original settlers and proprietors. Joseph was the third son of William Willcoxson, who was, as we have seen, one of the first settlers of Stratford and the first American ancestor of Josiah Wilcox. Some of the early accounts of William Willcoxson speak of him as coming from Hartford and he may have resided there a short time between his residence at Concord and his settlement in Stratford. Joseph was probably born during this stay at Hartford.

The original town of Killingworth had a medium breadth of about four miles and extended back from Long Island Sound from ten and one-half to thirteen miles. This original territory is now divided into two parishes; the first being called by the present name of the town and the second called North Killingworth. The

settlement of North Killingworth was begun in 1716. In the list of the first settlers in this parish appear the names of *Deacon Joseph Willcox and John Willcox*, who were the sons of the first Joseph Willcox who settled in Killingworth in 1663, being respectively, his eldest and youngest. This John was the grandfather of Josiah. Among the other first settlers in this parish were Isaac Kelsey, Esq., Deacon Josiah Hull, Deacon Daniel Buel, Joseph Griswold, Nathaniel Parmelee, and Samuel Stevens. These men were all from the first parish in the town and in the little village cemetery can be seen the gravestones of many of their descendants as well as the stones of the first Willcoxes. The daughters of some of these men married into the Willcox family. Another one of the first settlers was Timothy Chittenden, an ancestor of the present town clerk and probate officer of Killingworth, in whose possession the original records of the town are kept, and at whose house the compiler of this book saw and had access to the same.

For about four years after this settlement, the town of Killingworth proper was known as the "Plantation at Hammonnasset." In May of the year 1667, it was given the name of *Kenilworth* after the town of that name in Warwick County, England, from whence, according to tradition, some of the first settlers emigrated. In the very earliest records, both of the town and county, the name was spelled as above, but was, in the course of time, corrupted into Killingworth, and this spelling was finally adopted as the correct form.

The First Church of Killingworth was organized in the same year, and is now located in Clinton, Conn., a town on the north shore of Long Island Sound, about 25 or 30 miles east of New Haven, and from which Killingworth lies almost due north 6½ miles.

Even at this date there are scarcely any houses on the road between Clinton and Killingworth hamlet, for the highway, which gradually ascends as one leaves the Sound, traverses a somewhat swampy woodland.

The Second Church of Killingworth, formed for the most part from the First Church, was organized January 18, 1738. The Second Church is now the only church in Killingworth proper. The Rev. William Seward was the first pastor. The record of the early Connecticut marriages, which have been printed, contain the records of these two churches, among which the name of *Wilcox,* or *Willcox,* or as it was originally given —*Willcockson*—frequently appears.

The records of Killingworth have been copied twice. The original records, made in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, are still extant and open to the inspection of visitors. They are now covered on both sides of each page with a strong, light and transparent paper which perfectly preserves them without destroying their legibility in the slightest degree.

The first copy of these original records, made probably in the Revolutionary period, is now old and yellowing with age and will doubtless have to be treated as was the original. These records, which contain births, marriages, deaths, land and probate records, are in bound volumes. The name of Willcox, as it appears spelled in the first copy, is given everywhere in the original record as Willcockson, or Willcoxson, or Willcoxen, the spelling showing as much diversity as doubtless existed in the education of the various town clerks. The dropping of the "son" from the name was probably of slow growth and a product of the years which elapsed between the making of the original Killingworth rec-

ords and the first *copy*. The dropping of the "son" from the name need not cause members of the family living today to doubt the authenticity of their ancestry, for many generations of the Willcox family lived in Killingworth after its foundation and they all trace their ancestry back to the original Willcoxson settlers who were residents there at the beginning. Moreover, the township clerks or committee who prepared the first *copy* of the original records would not have written the name everywhere as *Willcox*, leaving off the "son," if it had not become the habit of members of the family to do so.

♣ ♣ ♣

Joseph Willcockson , the third son of William Willcockson, was the head of the second generation in the line of descent to Josiah Wilcox, the principal figure of this book. Joseph was born about 1638. He married Anna or Hanna ——— in 1659, and died some time before 1684, presumably in 1683. Some of the early records so give it, and the internal evidence of the family real estate transactions shows that to be the date.

Very little information is obtainable about the life of this first Joseph Willcoxson or Willcockson.

The earliest record of the granting of lands in Killingworth to a Joseph Willcockson, and also the first mention of his name in Volume I of the Township records is the following entry:

> "At a town meeting February 27 A. D. 1681 The town Voted and granted unto Joseph Willcockson a corner of land up Hammonasset river about eleven score rod more or less, provided it prejudice no former grants nor highway—this being in full for Substitution of his claiming the Parsonage land."

The foregoing record may refer to Joseph Willcoxson or to his son of that name—we cannot be sure. It is dated 1681 and the first Joseph died in 1683, and altho it is some eighteen years after his settlement in the locality of Killingworth, which was named in 1667, it was over ten years before the distribution of his estate, of which his son Joseph and his wife Anna or Hannah were administrators.

His wife was not entirely satisfied with her interest in his estate, as is indicated by the following entry from the Connecticut Colonial Records of 1689-1706:

> "Gen. Assembly, at H. Octob'r 14th 1697 Anna Wilcoxson, widow and relict of Joseph Wilcockson late of Killingworth deceased, being aggrieved at the act of the countie court at New London, June 6, 1683, concerning her interest in the reall estate of the said Joseph whereby ye said court did order that the said Anna should have only one-third part of the profits of the reall estate of the said Joseph; which act being an abridgement of her just right according to lawe, this Court doth declare the same to be void, and doe order that the said Anna shall have the one third part of the reall estate of s'd Joseph according to lawe to be to her during her natural life, ye said act notwithstanding"

This item discloses the fact that appeals to higher courts consumed as much time in those early days as they do now. The reader will observe that the "countie court" passed upon said Anna's dower interest in 1683 and her rights were not completely adjudicated until 1697, a lapse of fourteen years.

The Killingworth real estate records are unusually complete as respects the transactions of the second and third generations of the Willcoxson or Willcox family and the compiler presents herewith a series of grants,

deeds and probate decisions which indicate quite fully the transition of the titles of the first Joseph Willcoxson to his sons. These have been copied in part from the *original* Killingworth records, and in part from the *copies* of the same. The copies generally show the dropping of the suffix "son" and the compiler has presented the name just as it appeared, and has made no attempt to correct the spelling of the name or to make it uniform.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ESTATE OF JOSEPH WILLCOXSON OF KILLINGWORTH AMONG HIS SONS.

Distribution to Samuel.

"Also by agreement with his Mother and his Brother Joseph three acres of meadow, as part of his fathers—legacy, lying at Nod as is Bounded North by a Creek Southerly by the land of the said Willcox Westerly by the River. Easterly by the upland in length of the river 30 rod from the upland to the river 28 rod. Also that upland that was formerly called Aladias Pond & it Did appear by living testimony that it was granted unto their Father *Joseph Willcoxon* deed upon the condition that the said Willcokson should secure the sd Pond either by fencing or drowing or otherwise from damage by the loss of cattle & if any cattle through his neglect be therein lost the sd Willcox to make restitution for the same & there being no record of the same to be found the town do now at a Town meeting January 21 A. D. 1694/5 grant that there shall be a record of the sd Pond as it is now. Bounded by former marked trees, with the former conditions as above written to be held & fulfilled by him his Heirs & assigns"

(Feb. 21 1698/9)

"Also by order from his Mother & his brother Joseph Willcox three acres & half of land adjoining to the pond which was formerly William Wellmans, decd: & laid down by the said William Wellman Administrator which lies on the west side of the forementioned Pond in length by the highway 22 rods. In breadth from the highway to the Pond, 26 rods Running with an angle toward the southwest Bounded westerly by the highway, Easterly by the land of Joseph Willcokson Northerly by Thomas Stevens land, South by the Pond, as witness our hand

HANNAH WILLCOKSON
JOSEPH WILLCOKSON"

(Entered July 30 1713)

"Know all men by these Presents that we Joseph Willcocken & Anna Willcocken both of Killingworth as Administrators to the Estate of our Father & husband Joseph Willcoxen decd: have set out & delivered unto Samuel Willcoxen Legatee to the said Estate two parcels of land for his portion in part which Land is as follows one parcle of land containing 20 cres. upon Hammonnasset river & 8 acres by William Palmers formerly belonging to the estate of sd Willcoxson decd

As witness our hands this 18 day June A. D. 1704
Witness
JOSEPH HAND The mark (X) of Anah Willcoxon"
WILLIAM STONE

(Vol. 1, Pages 170-171 Original Killingworth Records.)

GRANT TO SAMUEL.

(From the Town.)

(Entered July 30 1713)

"Samuel Willcokson hath by grant from the town May 21 a d 1688 four acres of Land be it more or less, up—against Ned meadow. Bounded southerly in part by the Land of Daniel Kelsy. Easterly by Grundels meadow, westerly by Ezariah Beach Northerly by John Lee, leaving sufficient Highway, to come to the meadow, & liberty for the stacking of hay, & he is to make & maintain 4 Poles of Common fence"

(Vol. 1, Page 170-1 Original Killingworth Records.)

ALLOTMENT TO JOSEPH WILLCOCKSON BY THE COLONY.

(April, 1698.)

"1 Joseph Wilcockson hath for a house lot Eight acres more or less, being breadth of the front highway 42 rod & half-depth toward the quarter 31 rod. Bounded by the highway that goes to the Quarter & down the meadow, south by the land of Elderkin west & by the land of William Palmer. North with 8 rod 3 quarters adjoining on the north side the aforesaid bound: for his second division for yt altogether it is eleven acres more or less.

2 Also in the neck four acres and a half more or less, in length from the highway on the north to the meadow on the south & in breadth four rods and half allowing through the breadth about the midst a highway where judged most convenient. Bounded by the land of William Hayton East by the sequestered land west as also the meadow adjoining home to the river containing the same bound & breath

3 Also west from his own home lot three acres & half more or less, in length 40 Rod in breadth 18 Rod Bounded west by land of Josiah Hull Senr. Elderkins land east & across highway south

4 Also in meadow west from the neck 3 acres being in breath seventeen Rod & half, in length 35 Rod allowing a cart way through the north end if needful. Bounded—East by the land of Matthew Allen. West by the sequestered land and south by the River

5. Alienated to John Rossiter. Also on the east side of the Indian river by the planting field three acres three quarters with some overplus allowed. In length from the head of the cove home to the river. Bounded west by Samuell Buells meadow, to the little Island, of trees and thence taking in the Island of trees to run home to the river and so the next bound all the remainder of that side the full length of the cove in breadth five rod and quarter—Bounded all the length on the East by the land of John Rossiter

6 Alienated to Josiah Rossiter. Also in Meadow three acres & half more or less, in breadth next the upland nine Rod, next the river twenty rod w'th allowance for a highway to pass through it to the easterly end of William Haydens meadow, Bounded westerly by the land of John Meigs Junr, Easterly of the land of Jonathan Dunn, Southerly by the river or Salt Creek and Northerly by the upland

7 Also on Hammonasset River four acres more or less Bounded westerly by the river Northerly by the land of John Meigs every else by the Common

8 Also by purchase of Jonas Westover four acres bounded West and South by the river, East by the Common & north by his own land

Exhange 9 Also by Exchange with John Rossiter

four acres & half more or less of meadow on Hammonnasset river more or less from the upland and little Island to the river. Bounded Northerly by the end of Bryan Rossiter, South by the land of George Sanders, West Josiah Rossiter

Exchange 10 Also in meadow by Hammonnasset River three acres more or less bounded by the river westerly by the upland & little Island Easterly & by the land of John Rossiter Southerly

11 Also by the Hammonnasset river northerly from his own land ten acres more or less, lying betwixt two hills at the northerly end running through a swamp to a little Run of water bounded there by the Common that now is bounded westerly in part by the river & partly by the Common, Easterly by the Hill, Southerly in part by his own land & partly by the Common allowing a highway through where judged most convenient''

''12 Also by Hammonnasset river Northerly from Obediah Willcocksons land 6 acres & quarter more or less. In breadth at the Northeaserly end thirteen rods in length to the river 65 rods. Bounded northeasterly end by a little brook. East by the Common in part and partly by the land of Obediah Willcockson. Southerly by the river. Northerly by the Hill to the marked trees & so to the river''

''13 Also eight acres & quarter of upland in length 46 Rod in breadth at the southerly end 40 rods & at the Northerly end 21 rod, Bounded Easterly by the land of John Large in part and partly by the common, westerly by the highway, southerly by the land of Jonas Westover, Northerly by the common. Also by purchase of Jacob Joy four acres and half of upland, more or less, in breadth 18 rod in length 40 rods Bounded Southwest & Northwest by his own land Southeast by highway North-

east by the common. Also by purchase of Wm. Palmer three acres & half of upland in length—or breadth—bounded east by his own land Northerly & westerly by the house lot of William Palmer, Southerly by the highway."

April, 1698.

"Also by purchase of Meigs Jun. one acre and half up Hammonnasset River more or less Bounded west by the river, South by the land of Joseph Willcox, East & North by the Common."

(Vol. 1, Original Killingworth Records.)

* * *

Distribution to Nathaniel.

(May 2, 1694.)

"Nathaniel Willcox hath Record as part of his Fathers legacy of his Brother Joseph Administrator to his father's estate a house & home lot in Killingworth Mother Bellamys the lot accepted a three acres and a quarter which house and lot reed at £33—& in case the sd Nathaniel be molested or dispossessed by law of the sd House and lot that then his Brother Joseph him his heirs are bound to make good unto the sd Nathaniel Willcox him his heirs the aforesaid sum of £33—this ordered by the sd Joseph Willcox to be recorded."

* * * *

"I the sd Nathaniel Willcox Do own and acknowledge that I have recorded to my Brother Joseph the full of my fathers Legacy & also of my brother Thomas Dec'd according to the Court as witness our hand this 2nd of May A. D. 1694"

Joseph Willcox
Nathaniel Willcox"

(Pages 120-121, Vol. 1, Killingworth Records.)

GRANT FROM JOSEPH TO NATHANIEL.

(May 10, 1697.)

"Joseph Willcoxson hath upon consideration that his brother Nathaniel having none of his fathers Land, he Doth now grant unto him seven acres of his last Division of Land & that when it shall be taken up it shall be recorded to him & his heirs and assigns forever.

May 10 1697

Nathaniel Willcokson hath the above mentioned grants laid out as it lies without the Common fence against the Nod meadow, being part of his Brother Joseph Division four acres being 50 rods in length & 12 rods & 3 quarters breadth as it lies bounded Southerly by his brother John every other way by the Common that now is"

(Vol. 1, Page 120, Original Killingworth Records.)

♣ ♣ ♣

DISTRIBUTION TO WILLIAM.

(February 8, 1698-9.)

"William Willcox hath by consent of his mother & his brother Joseph & ordered by them to be Recorded, eight acres of upland lying against Will'm Palmer's. Also three acres of meadow lying at Nod between Capt. Allens & Wm. Palmers:—Also four acres & a quarter of upland by the frog pond lying against Nod Meadow. Also twelve acres of land up Hammonasset River, which was formerly Tho' Shaler's all which land as they stand bounded in his fathers record."

Feb. 8, 1698/9

(Pages 120-121, Vol. I Killingworth Records.)

[Note. This record shows the revised spelling of the family name.]

GRANT FROM WILLIAM TO JOHN.

(February 9, 1698.)

"To all Christian People to whom these presents Shall come, I, William Willcox, of Killingworth County, of New London and Colony of Connecticut in New England, send this greeting. Know ye that I, the above sd. William Willcox, for divers good causes & considerations thereunto moving, but Especially for & in consideration of a Sum of money agreed upon & bill given for, bearing date with these presents, have given, granted, bargained, sold, alienated, enfeoffed & by these presents Doth fully, absolutely give, grant, bargain, sell, enfeoff & confirm unto my brother, John Willcox, of the foresaid town of Killingworth County & Colony in New England, twelve acres of land lying & being within the limits of Killingworth by Hammonasset River as it lies, bounded West by the river, North by the land of Joseph Willcox & Southerly by the Common, being at that end ten rods in breadth & Easterly by the common, being in length on that side ninety-five rods, together with all & singular the Privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging. To have & to hold, Possess & enjoy, all and singular the bargained Premises & every part thereof unto the said John Willcox, him, his heirs & assigns, forever, without any manner of let, trouble, denial or molestation whatsoever, of, by or from the sd. William Willcox, his heirs, Executors, Administrators, or any other Person or persons lawfully claiming the same, from, by or under them or any of them. The sd. William Willcox doth for himself, his Heirs, Executors, administrators or assigns, covenant & grant to & with the said John Willcox, him, his heirs or assigns this land now and at all times hereafter shall remain, continue & abide, unto the said John Willcox, him, his heirs & as-

signs, for the making of which deed & all things there contained I set to my hand & seal this 9th day of Febry. 1698 & in the 10th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord William Ye Third, by the grace of God of England, Scotland & King, Defender of the faith.

WILLIAM WILLCOX."

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us. The mark of VINSON MIEGS.

HENRY CRANE, JR.

William Willcox Personally appeared this 9th day of February, 1698 & acknowledged the same to be his free act & deed before me.

HENRY CRANE,
Commissioner."

(Vol. 1 Killingworth Land Records, page 123.)

[Made from a copy of the Original Records, showing the suffix "son" omitted.]

♠ ♠ ♠

DISTRIBUTION TO JOHN.

(December 23, 1698.)

"John Willcox hath by agreement with and consent of his mother and his Brother Joseph as being Administrators to my father Estate all the land upon Hammonasset river which was formerly our fathers as it lies bounded and Recorded unto him. Excepting 12 acres that was formerly goodman Shailor's and now our brother William Willcox and also seven acres which lies upon the three corners. Meadow brook that was formerly Obadiah Willcox, this as part of my Father's legacy and ordered to be recorded, by the Widow and her son Joseph.

December 23d, A. D. 1698."

(Page 120, Vol. 1, Original Records of Killingworth.)

"John Willcox hath as his part of the last Division land seven acres of land as it lies without the common fence against meadow, as it is bounded Southerly by his brother Joseph, Northerly by his Brother Nathaniel, Easterly and Westerly by the Common, being in length 50 Rods in breadth 12 Rods 3 quarters."

[Taken from one of the copies of the Original Killingworth Records, made after the dropping of the suffix "son" from the name.]

GRANT FROM JOSEPH TO OBADIAH.

(September 2, 1676.)

The Joseph referred to in this record is probably the first of that name in Killingworth, inasmuch as one of his brothers was named Obadiah, and this conveyance is of an earlier date than the others.

"Know all men by these Presents that I Joseph Willcoxson of Killingworth, in the County of New London, of the Colony of Connecticut upon a valuable consideration to me secured, have sold and by these presents do alienate——assign and pay over unto my brother Obadiah Willcoxson of Guilford, the County of New Haven and in the Colony of Connecticut two acres and a quarter of upland lying west from my home lot. In length 40 Rods. In breadth 9 Rods—bounded west by the land of Josiah Hull, Sen. East by Joseph Willcoxson land and the cross highway the which land it shall be lawful for the above sd Obadiah Willcockson to have and to hold enjoy and Possess forever free from any molestation from me, or any other person from by or

under me and I do hereby, Authorize him to record it to himself his heirs or assigns and for the confirmation of this my act and Deed I do hereto set my hand and seal the 2nd of Sept. A. D. 1676.

JOSEPH WILLCOXSON

Witness hereunto
HENRY CRANE
ELEAZER ISBELL

This Deed of Sale was acknowledged before me
EDWARD GRISWOLD Commissioner
Sept. 2 A. D. 1676"

(Vol. 1, Page 39, Original Killingworth Records.)

♣ ♣ ♣

All of the foregoing records may appeal to those of my readers who do not find any excitement and pleasure in the task of prowling among the records of the past, as dry, dull and uninteresting. And I am ready to grant that such an avocation is little likely to result in any practical advantage toward securing subsistence in this age of expensive living, but for me these same dry records were vested almost with a halo of romance when I stumbled onto the discovery, that the majority of the records, which deal with the properties of my own paternal ancestors, were made in that distant year which was the "10th of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, William Ye Third, by the grace of God, of England and Scotland King, Defender of the Faith," as you may learn from the paragraph at the top of page 30.

THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF JOSEPH WILLCOXSON

Of Killingworth, Connecticut

It has seemed to the compiler that it would neither be entirely out of place nor without interest to digress for a moment, before proceeding further with the history of the immediate family of *Joseph Willcoxson of Killingworth,* and make some mention of his brothers and sisters. Although to do this is to step aside from the general scheme of this booklet, which aims to deal solely with the direct line to Josiah Wilcox, of Brecksville, Ohio, and to embark upon a consideration of collateral branches, still, several of Joseph's brothers became, if anything, somewhat more widely known than himself, and, like him, shared in the foundation of a Connecticut town. Perhaps the greater importance and size of these towns had something to do with the fact that we know more of them.

♣ ♣ ♣

JOHN AND TIMOTHY WILLCOXSON

Of Stratford, Connecticut

Brothers of Joseph of Killingworth.

The two oldest brothers, Timothy and John, were residents of Stratford, and altho not exactly founders of it, probably assisted their father in developing it in its earliest days. We have very little information concerning either of them beyond what is set forth in the account of Stratford, heretofore given. On page 101 of the Connecticut Colonial Records for the years 1665-1678, appears an entry to the effect that "At a General Assembly, Held at Hartford, October the 8th, 1668, *John Willcoxson* was presented to Stand for free man from Stratford."

On page 525, in a list of the freemen for Killingworth, his name appears again, which would seem to indicate that while retaining properties in Stratford, he had obtained a residence in the town of his brother Joseph. This could not have been his son John, for the latter was not born until 1657, and was not old enough to be a freeman, and it could not refer to Joseph's son John, since he was not born until 1675.

On page 522, in "A list of the Freemen of Stratford as they are reputed amongst us, 8 mths, 7d., '69," appear the names, *Timothy Wilcokson* and *John Wilcokson*.

Deacon Timothy Willcoxson, of Stratford, was born about 1630., according to the Stratford Records, but we know this to be an error, inasmuch as William had but one child, John, when he came to America. He married Johanna, daughter of John Birdseye, Sen'r, December 28, 1664, and died January 13, 1713/14. She died August .., 1713.

Children of Timothy.

Johannah, b. July 8, 1667; m. Joseph, son of Thomas Fairchild, Jr.

Phoebe, b. Aug. 13, 1668/9; m. Thomas Beach of Wallingford.

Sarah, b. Dec. 26, 1671; m. Robert McEwen, June, 1695.

Elizabeth, b. Nov. 1, 1673; m. Joseph Hawley of Farmington in 1697.

Ruth, b. Aug. 31, 1677; m. Robert Walker in 1695.

Rebecca, b. July 13, 1680; m. 1st ——— Rice; 2nd Eliasoph Preston.

Hannah, b. Sept. 18, 1685; m. Thomas Gridley of Farmington.

John Willcoxson, of Stratford, was born in England about 1634, and was William Wilcockson's first child. He was married earlier than Timothy, and his first children were born earlier than the latter's, which tends to corroborate the record contained in the roster of the ship "Planter." John married 1st, the daughter of Daniel Titerton, and 2nd, Elizabeth, widow of John Welles, March 19, 1662/3.

1919695

Children of John.

John, b. March, 1657.
William, b. ———, 1659.
Patience, b. Feb. 6, 1663; m. Ebenezer Blakeman.
Hannah, b. Feb. 14, 1664/5; m. Joseph Booth.
Elizabeth, b. July ——, 1666; m. Barnabas Beers.
Mary, b. April ——, 1668.

SAMUEL WILLCOXSON OF SIMSBURY

Brother of Joseph of Killingworth.

Of the sons of William Wilcockson of Stratford and the brothers of Joseph Wilcoxson of Killingworth, the best known is Samuel of Simsbury, which town he helped to found.

Samuel was prominent in all of the activities of this town, and apparently remained a leader in its church affairs and politics all his life. The first record of the election of selectmen who were called *townsmen* is in the year 1677, at which time the officers chosen were John Griffin, Joshua Holcomb and *Samuel Wilcoxson*. Samuel was the representative from Simsbury to the General Court or Assembly for many years (1694-1712), and was highly esteemed.

In its earliest years Simsbury, like a number of the first New England settlements, was devastated and nearly destroyed by fire. So great was the loss that the settlement was completely deserted for a period and given up to the ravages of the Indians. For safe keeping articles of value and even some pieces of furniture were buried in swamps and wells. When at length the inhabitants began to return and rebuild, it became apparent that it would be necessary to secure some legislative assistance in order to induce development and encourage the people, and permission was obtained from the General Assembly at the May session in 1672 to raise the rates for town charges, and for supplying the Ministry for the three years next ensuing. This referred to lands only, but all actual inhabitants of Simsbury were also exempted from the payment of Colony taxes for three years.

Samuel Wilcockson was one of the committee of two to present the requirements of the town to the General Assembly. They went, armed with the following authority:

"To the Honoured Generall Assembly Now Sitting in Hartford.

Honoured Fathers s. c.

Wee whose names are underwritten, the present inhabitants of Simsbury, haveing bin formerly burthened by the inequallity of levying of rates (as the case is circumstanced with us) and now through the late afflictive dispensation of God's providence haveing bin greater sufferers, than other plantations in this Collony, and thereby allsoe in some measure at the present incapacitated to rayse rates in the common way that is stated in the country law; in this one infant state do humbly request and desire

of this Honoured Assembly that they would be pleased to graunt us at the present that privilege (which we understand hath bin formerly and of late graunted to other plantations in their beginning,) vis. that all rates that shall be raysed for the defraying of publicke charges may be levyed onely upon lands; the farther grounds and reason of this one request wee have desired *Samuel Willcockson* and Benajah Holecomb to represent to your Honours as our agents in this case: who are your very Humble Servants.

May 14th '77"

The foregoing was signed by a committee of petitioners and the requested permission was granted.

* * *

Like the Established Church in England at the present time, the early New England Church, which loomed so large in the every day affairs of the people, was supported by or was under the jurisdiction of Government; and when the Simsbury church applied to the General Court for permission "to put the church in gospel order," *Samuel Willcockson's* name appeared second on the petition.

The application which he signed was as follows:

"The Humble Motion of Simsbury men to the much Honor'd ye Governor, and Deputy, with the rest of ye worshipfull Assistants, and worthy Members of this Honor'd assembly is as followeth:

We, whose names are underwritten, having knowledg and tryal of Mr. Samuel Stow, in ye labors of ye word and Doctrine of the gospel, do hereby manifest, so far as we know our own hearts, our hearty desires of his continuance to be a Pastor and Watchman over our soules and the soules of ours; And that therefore for his, and our encouragements,

an addresse might be made to the General Court yt is set to this Instant of May, or that ye presentation of this may be, insteade of an addresse, (by formal petition,) to their Honours, That we might have their countenance to setle ourselves in gospel order, w'th the approbation and helpe of approved Elders of churches among us; that so we might, according to ye obligation yt God hath layd upon us, through ye application of ye representative blood of his Son, walk mour orderly to his prase, and the Salvation of our Soules, in observance of whatsoever he hath commanded us in his Holy worde, having ye means and helpe that he hath appointed thereunto.

Simsbury, ye 7th day of May 1682"

This application was signed by a committee as indicated before. In 1681 application had been made to the Rev. Mr. Samuel Stow, of Middletown, to preach in Simsbury, and he labored there from time to time during a period of four years. The church had not been regularly organized, however, until the action was taken, of which the petition above formed the beginning. The permission sought was granted and the neighboring churches gave their consent to the regular establishment of a church, but the pulpit was not continuously occupied until the year 1696. At this time several calls were issued by the congregation for a certain minister, but the people seemed to feel some concern about the recognition accorded them by the neighboring churches, as is evidenced by the following instrument:

"Whereas there arises some demur, in refference to our preceding actions, touching our gathering a church here in Simsbury, by some of the elders of the neighboring churches;—presupposing that we laye under scandol, by reason of the minister's departing and leaving of us destitute—they desiring

to be better informed of the mator, Ensign Thomas Barber is chosen by the congregation to go to Mr. Hooker; and Serg't Samuel Willcoxson to go to Mr. Mather, for to inform them about ye said case, and the agitation.

"Further voted by those persons that have subscribed to be admited to ye Lord's Super, that they are willing to be examined, and tried, as to their knowledge and fitness, for such fellowship and ordinance by the elders of other churches"

The Mr. Hooker and Mr. Mather, referred to above, were the clergymen at Farmington and Windsor respectively.

These proceedings take on an added interest when we reflect that they were had when New England was still largely a wilderness; when the Indians and wild animals still had to be guarded against and when life was stern and difficult at best. The designation of "Sergeant" would seem to indicate that Samuel Willcoxson was a non-commissioned officer of the militia or "train bands," which the surrounding and threatening perils demanded.

* * *

The form of Church Covenant signed by Samuel Wilcockson and his son, by the signing of which they were accepted for "full Communion in Simsbury at the Lord's Table, by the Elders of the Church," is interesting as an example of the rather stern formalism of the early New England Puritan Church, and worth repeating. It was as follows:

"You do all here, solomnely here in the feare of God's all presence of this Congregation, avouch God in Jesus Christ to be your God;—and you do give up yourselves and yours to be the Lord's, to submit to his rule and government, in his church, to

obey his commands, walke in all Religious duties towards God; in love towards your neighbors;—and that you will do your duty in bringing up your children in the knowledg and fear of God according to the Scriptures"

* * *

One of the features of the early New England towns which has been explained on a preceding page was the institution of the "Common fields." These were fenced to avoid damage to the crops by each other's horses, cattle and swine, but at Simsbury, the protection was insufficient apparently, for they suffered so much from the depredations of the animals that the matter was laid before the General Court by the selectmen of the town.

They presented this petition:

"From Simsbury, this 14th October, 1687.

To this Honored General Court—

The petition of the underwritten is as followeth:

That whereas, we the Inhabitants of Simsbury, and planters in this place, by the blessing of God upon our labours, have been from year to year in Good hopes and expectation of a comfortable and considerabl harvist, as may be made apparant by the fair and promising show upon our lands;—yet are we yearly so Destroyed and devoured one of another—— When we have bestowed our labours and charges, and se apparently good hops of a comfortable harvist, then is our labours devoured and destroyed one by his Neighbor, and every man of and by one an other without relicfe, that it is a most grevious and perplexing consideration: and have tryed many wayes to prevent such Intolerable losses by layeing out fences to such lands herein Simsbury

and enclosurs as has ben for use both for corn and grasse; yet our orders and labours has not ben attended, so that to this day our Cornfields lye exceedingly hazerdous and our labours to be destroyed, which if there be not som speedy care taken of us that our meadows and corn fields be secured, and our crops preserved, we shall be very much empoverished; neither shall we be able to carry on any publique deuties, either in ecclessiastical matters or civill affayres; and seeing that it is wondered at why Simsbury men are so poor, the judicious may easily discerne the reason of the same; so that in sense thereof, we do most earnestly begg, pray and Implore this honnered Court to take vs and our most sad estate into your serious consideration and find out some way for our relief and welfare, or else we may labour yearly, and the earth by the blessing of God bring forth much, and yet it will be as it hath been frequently destroyed; so that we pray entreat your worships to afford us some reliefe. And in hopes shall crave leave to subscribe our selves your humble pettitioners.

JOSHUA HOLCOMBE
SAMUEL WILCOCKSON
JOHN HIGLEY
Selek Men of Simsbury''

* * *

Samuel was born about 1640; and died March 12, 1713. He resided at Meadow Plain, Simsbury, being one of the early settlers. He was deputy for Simsbury to the General Court at Hartford from 1694 to 1712.

SAMUEL'S CHILDREN.

SAMUEL, born 1666.
WILLIAM, married Elizabeth Willson.
JOSEPH.

SECOND GENERATION.

JOSEPH WILLCOXSON, OF KILLINGWORTH.

1638—1683.

Married Annah ——, 1659.

1. JOSEPH, born Oct. 29, 1659; married Feb. 14, 1698, Hannah Kelsey.
   - Hannah, born Jan. 16, 1694.
   - Joseph, born Jan. 17, 1695.
   - David, born March 10, 1700.
   - Able, born Oct. 1, 1702.
   - Elisha, born Jan. 12, 1704.
   - Stephen, born July 12, 1706.
   - Lediah, born July 28, 1713.
2. THOMAS, born Nov. 13, 1661; died before May, 1694.
3. SAMUEL, born 1663; married Ruth Westcock Jan. 5, 1696.
   - Samuel, born Nov. 8, 1696.
   - Dinah, born Nov. 7, 1697.
   - Annah, born Oct. 12, 1699.
   - William, born July 18, 1703.
   - Ruth, born April 4, 1706.
   - Lois, born May 3, 1708.
   - Ruth, born June 9, 1711.
   - Jeremiah, born Feb. 11, 1716-17.
   - (Perhaps other children.)
4. HANNAH, born Jan. 19, 1665; married Peter Farnham, Sept. 18, 1686.
5. NATHANIEL, born Aug. 29, 1668; married Hannah Lane, Nov. 21, 1695.
   - Sarah, born Aug. 21, 1696.
   - Thomas, born July 9, 1698.
   - Nathaniel, born July 19, 1700.
   - Daniel, born Dec. 1, 1702.
   - Jonathan, born Sept. 22, 1705.
6. WILLIAM, born Jan. 9, 1671 (no record).
7. MARGARET, born 1673 (no record).
8. JOHN, born 1675; married Hannah ——.
   - John, born Jan. 1, 1704-5.
   - Abijah, born Dec. 3, 1706.
   - Elizabeth, born Aug. 15, 1709.
   - Margaret, born April 20, 1712.
   - Mindwell, born Jan. 12, 1713-14.
   - Abraham, born Nov. 14, 1715.
   - Ebenezer, born Feb. 11, 1717-18.
   - Silas, born Feb. 20, 1719-20.
   - Hannah, born March 28, 1722.
   - Amos, born Feb. 1, 1725-6.

OBADIAH WILLCOXSON OF GUILFORD,

BROTHER OF JOSEPH OF KILLINGWORTH.

Obadiah Willcoxson, the fifth child and fifth son of the original William Wilcockson and one of the founders and first settlers of Guilford, Conn., was born at Stratford about 1642. He was at Kenilworth, or Killingworth, in 1669, and moved to Guilford about 1676. According to the Connecticut Colonial Records of 1665-1678 it appears that "At a Court of Election held at Hartford May 13, 1669, Obadiah Willcoxson was presented for a freeman from Kennilworth (Killingworth)." He was made planter February 8, 1675-6.

In 1672 a division of land, the third, was voted among all the then planters of Guilford, which was originally called "the plantation of Menunkatuck." The inhabitants then numbered something over one hundred, and in the list of about sixty-three who were made freemen at the time, appears the name of *Obadiah Willcoxson*, together with others who had settled between 1660 and that time. Obadiah had been presented for freeman in 1669. The foregoing constitutes all of the record history concerning Obadiah, aside from the facts that he was married three times, that his children were probably all born in Guilford, and that he died in 1713. His first wife, Mary, died August 3, 1670. His second was named Lydia and his third, Silence.

OBADIAH'S CHILDREN.

MARY, born 1676.
LYDIA, born 1678, died soon.
OBADIAH, born 1679.
EBENEZER, born 1682.
EPHRAIM, born ——.
MINDWELL, born ——.
TIMOTHY, born 1690.
SILENCE, born ——.
JOHN, born 1692.
JOSEPH, born 1694.
JANNA, born ——.
JEMIMA, born 1699.
THANKFUL, born 1701.

SISTERS OF JOSEPH WILLCOXSON

Of Killingworth.

William Wilcockson of Stratford had nine children in all, the five oldest being boys, mention of whom has just been made. The last four were girls, and of them very little information is obtainable, inasmuch as their lives became merged in those of their husbands and the genealogies of their husbands' families must be searched for their descendants.

The first daughter was *Elizabeth,* born about 1644. She married Henry Stiles of Windsor, Conn., April 16, 1663.

The second was *Hannah,* born about 1646. She married Daniel Hayden, probably of Windsor, March 17, 1665.

The next was *Sarah,* born about 1648, who married John Meigs, Jr., of Guilford, in 1665.

The last was *Phebe,* born about 1650. She married John Birdseye, of Stratford, December 11, 1669. Of the children of these women the compiler has no knowledge.

JOSEPH WILLCOXSON'S CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Of Killingworth.

Having discoursed upon the brothers and sisters of Joseph Willcoxson, of Killingworth, this section of our booklet, which relates to the *Second Generation,* will be concluded with an outline of the families of Joseph's children and grandchildren, who constitute the *third* and *fourth* generations respectively. Joseph's sons are the ones who are referred to in the first pages of this section as being beneficiaries of their father's estate and the recipients of his real estate. It will be recalled that his wife Annah or Hannah, and his oldest son Joseph were the administrators of his estate.

JOSEPH'S CHILDREN.

I. JOSEPH, born Killingworth, Oct. 29, 1659; married Feb. 14, 1693, Hannah Kelsey.

I. 1. Hannah, b. Jan. 16, 1694.
I. 2. Joseph, b. Jan. 17, 1695.
I. 3. David, b. March 10, 1700.
I. 4. Abel, b. Oct. 1, 1702.
I. 5. Elisha, b. Jan. 12, 1704.
I. 6. Stephen, b. July 12, 1706.
I. 7. Lediah, b. July 28, 1713.

(All born in Killingworth.)

II. THOMAS, born Killingworth Nov. 13, 1661, died before 1694. Thomas died before the distribution of his father's estate, which was begun in 1694, and probably was unmarried.

III. SAMUEL, born Killingworth 1663; married Ruth Westcock, January 5, 1696.

III. 1. Samuel, b. Nov. 8, 1696.
III. 2. Dinah, b. Nov. 7, 1697.
III. 3. Annah, b. Oct. 12, 1699.
III. 4. William, b. July 18, 1703.
III. 5. Ruth, b. April 4, 1706.
III. 6. Lois, b. May 3, 1708.
III. 7. Ruth, b. June 9, 1711.
III. 8. Jeremiah, b. Feb. 11, 1716-17.

(Perhaps other children.)

(All born in Killingworth.)

IV. HANNAH, born Killingworth January 19, 1665; married Peter Farnham, Sept. 18, 1686.

V. NATHANIEL, born Killingworth, Aug. 29, 1668; married Hannah Lane, Nov. 21, 1695.

V. 1. Sarah, b. Aug. 21, 1696.
V. 2. Thomas, b. July 9, 1698.
V. 3. Nathaniel, b. July 19, 1700.
V. 4. Daniel, b. Dec. 1, 1702.
V. 5. Jonathan, b. Sept. 22, 1705.

(All born in Killingworth.)

VI. WILLIAM, born Killingworth, January 9, 1671 (no record). The absence of record may indicate that William moved away from Killingworth before marriage, or that he never married.

VII. MARGARET, born Killingworth —— 1673 (no record). Probably married man from another town.

VIII. *JOHN*, born Killingworth, ——, 1675; married Hannah ——.

VIII. 1. JOHN, b. Jan. 1, 1704-5.
VIII. 2. ABIJAH, b. Dec. 3, 1706.
VIII. 3. ELIZABETH, b. Aug. 15, 1709.
VIII. 4. MARGRET, b. April 20, 1712.
VIII. 5. MINDWELL, b. Jan. 12, 1713-14 (daughter.)
VIII. 6. ABRAHAM, b. Nov. 14, 1715.
VIII. 7. EBENEZER, b. Feb. 11, 1717-18.
VIII. 8. *Silas*, b. Feb. 20, 1719-20.
VIII. 9. HANNAH, b. March 28, 1722.
VIII. 10. AMOS, b. Feb. 1, 1725-6.

(All born in Killingworth.)

THIRD GENER

JOHN WILLCOCKS OF
1675——
Married Hannah

1. Charles, born Aug. 5, 1748; died soon.
2. Silas, born Feb. 20, 1749.
3. Charles, born Nov. 8, 1750.
4. Josiah, born Sept. 15, 1753.
5. Grace, born July 11, 1755.

THIRD GENERATION.

JOHN WILLCOCKS OF KILLINGWORTH.
1675——
Married Hannah ——.

1. John, born Jan. 1, 1704-5.
2. Abijah, born Dec. 3, 1706.
3. Elizabeth, born Aug. 15, 1709.
4. Margaret, born April 20, 1712.
5. Mindwell (dau.), born Jan. 12, 1713-14.
6. Abraham, born Nov. 14, 1715.
7. Ebenezer, born Feb. 11, 1717-18.
8. Silas, born Feb. 20, 1719-20.
9. Hannah, born March 28, 1722.
10. Amos, born Feb. 1, 1725-26.

1. Charles, born Aug. 5, 1748; died soon.
2. Silas, born Feb. 20, 1749.
3. Charles, born Nov. 8, 1750.
4. Josiah, born Sept. 15, 1753.
5. Grace, born July 11, 1755.

JOHN WILLCOXSON

Of Killingworth, Connecticut.

1675 ——

THIRD GENERATION.

Of the third generation we have but very slight knowledge. The colonial records are silent on the life of John, whose name appears above, and there is nothing in the town Records of Killingworth of any particular concern aside from the vital statistics which have already been given. John had a large family of children, ten in all, whose names and birth dates have already been given on the preceding page, and will, therefore not be repeated here.

The date of his marriage is not known, nor his wife's maiden name, but he was probably married some time in the first three years of the eighteenth century, as his first born, John, was born January 1, 1704-05.

On account of our scant knowledge of John, the compiler has conceived the notion of explaining at this point his method of tracing backwards the ancestry of Josiah Willcox of Brecksville to William Wilcockson of Stratford, and why he knows that the results are accurate. In the beginning he knew that Josiah was born September 15, 1753, in Killingworth, Connecticut, and that he resided in Conway, Massachusetts, just before moving to Brecksville, Ohio, with his sons in 1816. The compiler, therefore, went to Killingworth and searched the original records for "Josiah, born Sept. 15, 1753," and promptly found him, discovering at the same time that Josiah was the son of *Silas*, who his brothers and sisters were, and when they were born. Then search was

begun for the father of *Silas,* and the discovery quickly made, and the facts unquestioned, for the reason that only one Willcoxson or Willcox family ever lived in Killingworth; it was there for several generations, and there was only one *Silas* in the lists of the whole period who was the son of *John*, born 1675. Simultaneously, Silas' brothers and sisters were discovered, also, of course. Furthermore, heed was given to the natural intervals between generations, and the lapse of time between the births of father and son, and between the parents' marriages and the advent of the first born of the succeeding generations, and the presumptions thus established corroborated the records.

Having discovered *Silas* to be the son of *John*, search was begun for *John's father,* and it developed that *John* was the youngest son of *Joseph.* The records disclosed who were Joseph's brothers and sisters, and who their children, and they were so complete as not to admit of any doubt. Having traced the line back to a *Joseph,* who was born prior to the founding of Killingworth, it remained to discover who was the father of this *Joseph.* That discovery was not made in Killingworth, but in the library of the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio, where it was found, in the History of Stratford, Connecticut, that William Wilcockson of that place was the father of Joseph, the first of the Willcoxson name to reside in Killingworth, and the only one to remain there. The facts regarding the family of Joseph in the Stratford History, were identical with those in the original Killingworth records, and the chain was thus complete.

The facts concerning *Josiah of Brecksville,* the name of his wife, date of his marriage, and the information

concerning his brother Silas' family were found in the records of Conway, Massachusetts; and the names of his brothers and sister, with their birth dates, in the records of Killingworth, Connecticut.

* * *

FOURT

SILAS WILLCO

Married Sar

FOURTH GENERATION.

SILAS WILLCOCKS OF KILLINGWORTH.
1719 20——
Married Sarah Stevens Aug. 27, 1747.

1. Charles, born Killingworth, Ct., Aug. 5, 1748; died soon.

2. Silas (bro. Josiah of Brecksville), born Killingworth, Ct., Feb. 20, 1749; married Sarah Griswould Feb. 9, 1775. He died at Conway, Mass., Dec. 22, 1828.
   1. Elihu, born Jan. 19, 1777.
   2. Lucius, born Dec. 9, 1780.
   3. Freeborn, born Feb. 14, 1783.
   4. Billy, born Aug. 15, 1785.
   5. Polly, born Aug. 15, 1785.

3. Charles, born Killingworth, Nov. 8, 1750.

4. Josiah (of Brecksville, O.), born Killingworth, Ct., Sept. 15, 1753; married Widow Jemima Kelsey, Conway, Mass., April 8, 1779. Died at Brecksville, O.
   1. Orrin.
   2. Eunice.
   3. Ambrose.
   4. Ebba.

5. Grace, born Killingworth, Ct., July 11, 1755; married Joseph Willcox March 4, 1776

SILAS WILLCOX

Of Killingworth, Connecticut.

1719/20 ——.

FOURTH GENERATION.

Silas Willcox, or Willcocks, was born at Killingworth, February 20, 1719/20, the eighth child of John and Hannah Willcoxson. At the time of his birth, the suffix "son" had been quite generally dropped by the members of the Killingworth branch of the Willcoxsons. He married Sarah Stevens August 27, 1747. (This fact was obtained from a work, entitled "Early Connecticut Marriages," the compiler of which secured his information from the records of the Second Church of Killingworth.)

About as little is known of this Silas as of his father John. He was born at a period when the first settlements in New England had been made. The troublous times of the Revolution, which gave rise to another set of records in the form of military rosters, had not yet arrived, and he probably passed a substantial, hard working, uneventful and commonplace life, with nothing in it calculated to make it sufficiently memorable for record.

CHILDREN OF SILAS.

I. CHARLES, born Killingworth Aug. 5, 1748; died soon after birth, probably, as another child born two years later was given the same name.

II. SILAS, born Killingworth, Feb. 20, 1749. Conway, Mass., records of Intention of Marriage show that such intention was declared Dec. 17, 1774, between Silas Wilcocks of Conway and Sarah Griswould of Killingworth, Conn. They were

married Feb. 9, 1775. The law required 14 days' notice of intention of marriage. He died at Conway, Dec. 22, 1828. She died there Jan. 27, 1838, aged 80 years.

II. 1. ELIHU, b. Jan. 19, 1777.
II. 2. LUCIUS, b. Dec. 9, 1780.
II. 3. FREEBORN, b. Feb. 14, 1783.
II. 4. BILLY, b. Aug. 15, 1785.
II. 5. POLLY, b. Aug. 15, 1785.

III. CHARLES, born Killingworth, Nov. 8, 1750 (no record.)

IV. *JOSIAH*, born Killingworth, Sept. 15, 1753; he married the Widow Jemima Kelsey April 8, 1779, which would indicate him to have been at the time of his marriage not quite 26 years old. Date of her death is unknown, but it occurred before Josiah's removal to Ohio in 1816. He died at Brecksville, March 3, 1844.

IV. 1. ORRIN, b. in Massachusetts.
IV. 2. EUNICE, b. ——.
IV. 3. EBBA, b. 1780 in Massachusetts.
IV. 4. AMBROSE, b. Jan., 1784, Hawley, Mass.

The compiler does not know whether Orrin and Eunice were older or younger than Ebba and Ambrose, or which of the two was the elder.

V. GRACIE, born Killingworth, July 11, 1755; married Joseph Willcox (probably a cousin) March 4, 1776.

JOSIAH WILLCOX

Of Brecksville, Ohio,

1753—1844.

FIFTH GENERATION.

Josiah Willcox, the central figure of this booklet, and the first of the name in Brecksville, Ohio, was born at Killingworth, Connecticut, September 15, 1753, the fourth child of Silas and Sarah (Stevens) Willcox. Of his life in Killingworth we know absolutely nothing. Some years before his marriage he and his brother Silas moved to Conway, Massachusetts. Whether their parents were then alive we do not know, and when they made this change we cannot know exactly, but it was probably about 1774, inasmuch as Silas Jr.'s declaration of intention of marriage, dated Dec. 17, 1774, at *Conway, Mass.*, to Sarah Griswould of *Killingworth, Conn.*, was presumably the culmination of an attachment made in the latter town before the removal. Josiah was over four years younger than his brother Silas, and may have lived with the latter in Conway, where he met the (presumably young) widow, Jemima Kelsey, whom he married April 8, 1779. We say "presumably young," since he was not yet twenty-six himself.

It is unfortunate for our study of the life of Josiah that all of his descendants to whom family traditions may have been transmitted are now dead. Of the man's appearance we can form but a slight conception, but those of us who have inherited or acquired by education a little of Carlyle's predilection for hero worship, can conceive with satisfaction that he must have been possessed of character, courage and patriotism,—otherwise we would not find him a soldier in the American Revolution.

There must have been strong ties between him and his brother Silas, and it would give the compiler of this, at least, a good deal of pleasure to know something of Silas' descendants. Those who are descended from Josiah's son Ebba can find in the family of Silas the origin of the name of Ebba's only son, Freeborn, as a family name. He was the namesake of Silas' third son. Not only did the brothers live together or in the same town; they enlisted together as privates in the Continental Armies, on the same day and in the same company and regiment.

The record of their military service is preserved in Vol. 17 of Massachusetts Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors, pages 399 and 400. Silas' record is as follows:

"*Silas Willcocks* (page 399):

Private, Capt. Abel Dinsmor's Co., Col. Ruggles Woodbridge's regt.; enlisted Aug. 26 (also given Aug. 17), 1777; discharged Nov. 29, 1777; service 3 mos. 7 (also given 3 mos. 16) days, including 3 days' (50 miles) travel home; company raised to serve with Northern Army until Nov. 30, 1777. Roll sworn to in Hampshire Co.

Silas Willcoks (page 400):

Private Capt. Abel Dinsmor's co.; Col. Elisha Porter's (Hampshire Co.) regt.; enlisted July 24, 1779; discharged Aug. 31, 1779; service 1 mo. 13 days, at New London, Conn., including 5 days' (102 miles) travel home."

Josiah's record is as follows:

"Willcocks, Josiah (page 399):

Private, Capt. Abel Dinsmor's co., Col. Ruggles Woodbridge's regt.; enlisted Aug. 26 (also given Aug. 17), 1777; discharged Nov. 29, 1777;

service 3 mos. 13 (also given 3 mos. 22) days, including 9 days' (180 miles) travel home; company raised to serve with Northern Army until Nov. 30, 1777. Roll sworn to in Hampshire Co."

On November 5, 1832, some twelve years before his death, Josiah applied for a pension, as a Revolutionary veteran, and it was granted. This was when he was 79 years old and resided in Brecksville. The records of the Bureau of Pensions show that he was a resident of Conway, Mass., when he enlisted and that he took part in the battle of Bemis Heights, which was one of the engagements of the campaign in the Hudson River Valley, made famous by the battles at Stoney Point and West Point and infamous by the treason of Benedict Arnold.

The Pension Bureau record of Josiah's enlistments gives the date of enlistment or appointment, the length of service, rank, officers under whom service was rendered, and state, which was Massachusetts in each instance, as follows:

July 1, 1776, 5 months, private, Captain —— Childs, Colonel Woodbridge;

Spring, 1777, 2 months, private, Captain Sam'l Taylor, Colonel Whitmore;

Sept., 1777, 3 months, private, Captain Abel Densmore, Colonel Fellows.

* * *

Josiah died in Brecksville March 3, 1844, aged 90 years, 5 months and 18 days, and is buried in the little cemetery situated in the locality commonly known as the "Rice Neighborhood"; and the compiler is ashamed to confess that his grave is not as well cared for as it should be.

Although this booklet purports to deal only with the first five generations in direct line from William Wilcockson of Stratford to Josiah Wilcox of Brecksville, the compiler desires, for the sake of his own line, to go one step further and preserve what record history there is extant relating to his great-grandfather, Ambrose, who was Josiah's son. He has accordingly extended that line a trifle and craves the indulgence of his possible readers who are descended from Josiah's other children. It was the original intention to make this book a complete history of *all* the descendants of the Revolutionary Josiah, a thing the compiler did in the case of his maternal ancestor, the Revolutionary Benjamin Snow, but the difficulty of tracing the almost hopelessly lost branches has induced him to defer that laborious, expensive but pleasurable task to a future date, a task which, given health, leisure and means, he trusts some time to accomplish.

JOSIAH'S CHILDREN.

I. ORRIN, born in Mass.; married Abigail Jenkins, Hawley, Mass.; moved to Michigan.

I. 1. JOSIAH, m. Angeline Hall; lived in Mich.; had two daughters and one son.

I. 2. TRYPHOSIA, m. —— Haynes; lived in Chicago; had four children—two blind.

I. 3. TRYPHENIA, m. Louis Miller; lived in California; had one daughter.

I. 4. GRACIE, m. John Beverlin; d. in Cal., buried in Cleveland; had two daughters and three sons.

I. 5. NANCY, m. —— Salter; had two daughters and one son; moved to California.

II. EUNICE, born ——; married —— Storer.

II. 1. LUCIUS.

II. 2. DAVID.

II. 3. ORRIN, moved to Michigan.

III. EBBA, born in Massachusetts, 1780; married Lucy Cooley. He died Brecksville, Oct. 14, 1852. She was born in 1778, and died July 21, 1854.

III. 1. FREEBORN, b. in Massachusetts, 1806; m. Sarah Robinson. He died June 2, 1837. She died Nov. 10, 1843, aged 35 years.

IV. AMBROSE, born at Hawley, Massachusetts, Jan. 1784; married Eleanor Jenkins (Grandma Jacox) of Hawley, Massachusetts. She was born at Hawley, July 5, 1789, and was 9 days less than 99 years old when she died, June 26, 1888. She had married Mr. Jacox after the death of Ambrose, which occurred May 11, 1836.

CHILDREN OF AMBROSE.

IV. 1. EDWIN, b. Hawley, Mass., Aug. 4, 1810; m. Jane Coates, Oct. 30, 1833. He d. July 11, 1879. She was born Oct. 21, 1810, and d. Nov. 11, 1886.

IV. 2. WEALTHY, b. Hawley, Mass., ——, 1812; m. Wm. McWade from Vergennes, Vt., Feb. 12, 1833. She d. Feb. 10, 1897. He d. May 31, 1877.

IV. 3. ORLANDO WHITNEY, b. ——; d. Brecksville, unmarried.

IV. 4. *Stephen Miller*, b. Brecksville, Jan. 12, 1818; m. Margaret (Coates) Canfield, April 2, 1840. He d. Nov. 11, 1869. She was b. July 17, 1813, and d. May 28, 1895.

IV. 5. MARIA, b. Brecksville, ——; m. George Hollis, ——.

IV. 6. ALMEDA, b. Brecksville, April 2, 1825; m. C. C. Hannum, Nov. 12, 1848. She d. Dec. 10, 1897. He was b. July 15, 1815, and d. Dec. 3, 1904.

IV. 7. Charles H., b. Brecksville, April 2, 1825; d. Oct. 2, 1836.

IV. 8. Julia A., b. Brecksville, July 21, 1829; m. Orrin Miller, Dec. 31, 1846. She d. 1889. He was b. Feb. 22, 1820, and d. Dec. 3, 1865.

IV. 9. Louisa, b. Brecksville, ——, 1830; m. Ashbel Coates Aug. 5, 1853; d. March 10, 1869. He was b. 1833, and d. March 27, 1898.

Josiah, m. Angeline Hall.
Tryphosia, m. Mr. Haynes
Tryphenia, m. Louis Miller.
Gracie, m. John Beverlin.
Nancy, m. Mr. Salter.

Lucius.
David.
Orrin.

FIFTH GE

1. Freeborn, born in Massachusetts, 1806; married Sarah Robinson from New York State. He died at Brecksville June 2, 1837. She died Nov. 10, 1843, aged 35 years.

JOSIAH WILCOX

1753—

Married Widow Jemin

1. Edwin, b. Hawley, Mass., Aug. 4, 1810; m. Jane Coates Oct. 30, 1833. He died July 11, 1879. She was born Oct. 21, 1810, and died Nov. 11, 1886.
2. Wealthy, b. Hawley, Mass., 1812; m. Wm. McWade from Vergennes, Vt., Feb. 12, 1833; d. New Mexico, Feb. 10, 1897. He died May 31, 1877.
3. Orlando Whitney, b. ——; was Ambrose's 2nd son; d. ——; estate administered 1841.
4. Stephen Miller, b. Brecksville, O., Jan. 12, 1818; m. Margaret Coates Canfield, April 2, 1840. He died Brecksville Nov. 11, 1869. She was born July 17, 1813, and died Brecksville, May 28, 1895.
5. Maria, b. ——; m. George Hollis.
6. Almeda, b. Brecksville, April 2, 1825; m. C. C. Hannum Nov. 12, 1848. She died in Chadwick, Illinois, Dec. 10, 1897. He was born July 13, 1815, and died Dec. 3 ,1904.
7. Charles H., b. Brecksville, April 2, 1825; d. Brecksville, Oct. 2, 1836.
8. Julia A., b. Brecksville, July 21, 1829; m. Orrin Miller, Dec. 31, 1846. She died in 1899. He was born Feb. 20, 1826, and died Dec. 3, 1865.
9. Louisa, b. Brecksville, 1830; m. Ashbel Coates, Aug. 5, 1853; d. March 10, 1869. He was born 1833 and died March 27, 1898.

FIFTH GENERATION.

JOSIAH WILCOX OF BRECKSVILLE,

1753—1844.

Married Widow Jemima Kelsey April 8, 1779.

1. Orrin, born in Massachusetts; m. Abigail Jenkins. Moved to Michigan.
   - Josiah, m. Angeline Hall.
   - Tryphosia, m. Mr. Haynes.
   - Tryphenia, m. Louis Miller.
   - Gracie, m. John Beverlin.
   - Nancy, m. Mr. Salter.

2. Eunice, b. ——; m. Mr. Storer.
   - Lucius.
   - David.
   - Orrin.

3. Ebba, born in Massachusetts in 1780; married Lucy Cooley. He died at Brecksville, Ohio, Oct. 14, 1852. She died July 21, 1854, aged 76 years.
   1. Freeborn, born in Massachusetts, 1806; married Sarah Robinson from New York State. He died at Brecksville June 2, 1837. She died Nov. 10, 1843, aged 35 years.

4. Ambrose, born Hawley, Mass., about 1784. Married Elcanor Jenkins, born in Franklin County, Mass., July 5, 1789. He died May 11, 1836, aged 52 years and 5 months. She died June 26, 1888, nine days less than 99 years old.
   1. Edwin, b. Hawley, Mass., Aug. 4, 1810; m. Jane Coates Oct. 30, 1833. He died July 11, 1879. She was born Oct. 21, 1810, and died Nov. 11, 1886.
   2. Wealthy, b. Hawley, Mass., 1812; m. Wm. McWade from Vergennes, Vt., Feb. 12, 1833; d. New Mexico, Feb. 10, 1897. He died May 31, 1877.
   3. Orlando Whitney, b. ——; was Ambrose's 2nd son: d. ——: estate administered 1841.
   4. Stephen Miller, b. Brecksville, O., Jan. 12, 1818; m. Margaret Coates Canfield, April 2, 1846. He died Brecksville Nov. 11, 1869. She was born July 17, 1813, and died Brecksville, May 28, 1895.
   5. Maria, b. ——; m. George Hollis.
   6. Almeda, b. Brecksville, April 2, 1825; m. C. C. Hannum Nov. 12, 1848. She died in Chadwick, Illinois, Dec. 10, 1897. He was born July 13, 1815, and died Dec. 3, 1904.
   7. Charles H., b. Brecksville, April 2, 1825; d. Brecksville, Oct. 2, 1836.
   8. Julia A., b. Brecksville, July 21, 1829; m. Orrin Miller, Dec. 31, 1846. She died in 1899. He was born Feb. 20, 1826, and died Dec. 3, 1865.
   9. Louisa, b. Brecksville, 1830; m. Ashbel Coates, Aug. 5, 1853; d. March 10, 1869. He was born 1833 and died March 27, 1898.

INVENTORY OF THE PROPERTY OF AMBROSE WILLCOX.

(Filed Sept. 12, 1836, in Cuyahoga County C. P. Court.)

A true and accurate inventory of the goods and chattels of Ambrose Willcox,—late of the Township of Brecksville, in the County of Cuyahoga, deceased, as presented to the undersigned, Cary Oakes, Elisha Rice, and Russia Bagley, appraisers appointed by the Court of Common Pleas of said county by Eleanor Willcox, Executrix and Edwin Willcox, Executor of said estate, this 14th day of June, A. D. 1836:

One Wagon $15.00 & one red white faced cow $19.00—$34.00.

One White Cow $19.00 & one Brindle Cow $22.00—41.00.

One Black Cow $20.00 & Do High Horned Brindle Cow $19.75—$39.75.

One Black Muley Cow $15.00 & Do Speckled Cow $20.75—$35.75.

One Black & White Cow $18.50, one Red Cow $19.75—$38.25.

One Yoke of Oxen $62.50, Do Pair Black White-faced Steers $22.00—$84.50.

One Speckled Steer $9.00, Do Red Steer $15.00—$24.00.

Do Double Horse Sleigh $9.00, Do Fanning Mill $11.75—$20.75.

4 Hogs $20.00, Do Single Horse Harness $2.50—$22.50.

1 Plough $5.00, Do Pair Steer Calves $6.75—$11.75.

14 Head of Sheep & Lambs $14.00, one Mare & Colt $60.00—$74.00.

Total amount of appraisement, $426.25.

Given under our hands the day and year aforesaid.

CARY OAKES
ELISHA RICE
RUSSIA BAGLEY
} Appraisers.

The State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County, ss. } Before me William G. Green—a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally came Cary Oakes, Elisha Rice and Russie Bagley, appraisers of the estate of Ambrose Willcox—late of Brecksville Township, in said county, deceased, and were sworn, well and truly to appraise all the goods and chattels, which shall be presented to them for appraisement.

Given under my hand, this 14th day of June, A. D. 1836.

WILLIAM G. GREEN, Justice of the Peace.

WILL OF AMBROSE WILLCOX.

I, Ambrose Willcox of the County of Cuyahoga in the State of Ohio do make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say

First, it is my Will that my funeral expenses and all My just Debts be fully paid.

Second, I give Devise and Bequeath to my Beloved Wife Eleanor Willcox in lieu of her Dower the plantation on which we now reside Situate in the Township of Bricksville in the County and State aforesaid containing about Sixty-five Acres. Also my out farm on Lot No thirty containing About one hundred acres during her natural life and All the live Stock, horses Cattle Sheep hogs &c, by me now owned and kept thereon except what is hereinafter Mentioned. Also all the household furniture and other items not particularly mentioned and other wise disposed of in this Will during her natural life as aforesaid. She However first disposing of a Sufficiency thereof to pay my just Debts as aforesaid; and that at the Death of my said Wife all the property hear by devised or bequeathed to her as aforesaid, or So much thereof as may then remain unexpended to my Sons and Daughters and to their heirs and assigns forever

Third, I give and devise to my Eldest Son Edwin Willcox one Cow

Fourth, I give and devise to my oldest Daughter Welthe McWade five head of Sheap

Fifth I give and devise to my Second Son Orlando W. Willcox one two years old Colt and obligations against Bangs and Clark for Seventeen hundred and eighty pounds of Sheap

Sixth I give and Devise to my third Son Stephen M. Willcox two obligations for Sheap against Wait and Burdin for about twenty three hundred pounds and one pair of one year old stears.

Seventh I give and Devise to my Second Daughter Maria Willcox one Cow.

Eighth I give and Devise to my fourth Son Charles H. Willcox one Cow and Six head of Sheap

Ninth I give and Devise to my third Daughter Almeda Willcox one heiffer calf.

Tenth. I give and Devise to my fourth Daughter Julia Willcox one heiffer calf.

Eleventh I give and Devise to my fifth and youngest Daughter Louise Willcox one heiffer calf.

And lastly, I hearby Constitute and appoint my said Wife Eleanor Willcox and my said Son Edwin Willcox to be the Executors for this my last Will and Testament revoking and annuling all former Wills by me made and rattifying and Constituting this and no other to be my last

Will and Testament.

In testimony Whereof I have hear unto Set my hand and Seal this Ninth Day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty six

AMBROSE WILLCOX (ss.)

Signed and published and declared by the above naimed Ambrose Willcox as and for his last Will and Testament in presence of us who at his request have signed and Witnessed to the same

Sidney S. Gibbs.

Elisha Rice.

Works Consulted in Compilation of This Booklet.

Connecticut Colonial Records.
Hinman's "Connecticut Settlers."
Hotten's "Original Lists."
Munsell's "American Genealogist."
New England Historical and Genealogical Register.
Orcutt's "History of Stratford."
Original Records of Killingworth, Connecticut, and Conway, Massachusetts.
Phelp's "History of Simsbury, Connecticut."
Savage's "Genealogical Dictionary."
Smith's "History of Guilford, Connecticut."
Snow's "Coates, Wilcox, Teachout Family History."
Steiner's "History of Guilford and Madison, Conn."

♣ ♣ ♣

No attempt has been made in this booklet to make the spelling of the family name uniform, but it has been presented just as it was found in the various records and authorities consulted, to the authors and compilers of which, this compiler owes sincere thanks.

INDEX.

William Wilcockson, *Stratford*, (1st generation).. 3
Roster of Ship "Planter" 4
Settlement of Stratford 5
Williams Jury Service 9
William as Representative 10
Legislation respecting wolves and Indians..... 12
Legislation respecting smoking and drinking...13-14

Joseph Willcoxson, *Killingworth* (2nd generation). 17
Settlement of Killingworth 18
Joseph's marriage and wife 20
Court Record regarding his property..... 21
Distribution of his estate 22
To Samuel 22
Grant to Samuel 24
Allotment to Joseph 24
To Nathaniel 27
Grant, Joseph to Nathaniel 28
To William 28
Grant, William to John 29
To John 30
Grant, Joseph to Obadiah 31
Conclusion 32
Brothers and Sisters of Joseph Willcoxson..... 33
Timothy of Stratford 34
Children of Timothy 34
John of Stratford 35
Children of John 35
Samuel of Simsbury 35
Samuel's Children 41
Obadiah of Guilford 43
Children of Obadiah 43

Sisters of Joseph Willcoxson 44
Elizabeth 44
Hannah 44
Sarah 44
Phebe 44
Joseph Willcoxson's Children and their Families 44
Joseph's Children 45-46

John Willcoxson, *of Killingworth* (3rd generation) 47
Children of John 46
Method of tracing family line..... 47

Silas Willcox, *of Killingworth* (4th generation).... 51
Children of Silas 51-52

Josiah Wilcox *of Breckseville* (5th generation)..... 53
His brother Silas' military record..... 54
His own military record 54
Josiah's Children 56-57
Children of Ambrose 57-58
Inventory Ambrose's property 59
Will of Ambrose Willcox 61

List of Works Consulted 63